

Message Text

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44

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 NEA-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 USSS-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01 /133 W

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O 261209Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7298

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3959

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR NO

SUBJ: UN MIDDLE EAST EMERGENCY FORCE

REF: A) STATE 211411 B) OSLO 3889 C) HELSINKI 2738

1. NORWAY HAS A FORCE OF 1286 MEN EARMARKED FOR UN PEACE-KEEPING MISSIONS AND IN OUR ESTIMATION IS CLEARLY INTERESTED IN MAKING AT LEAST PART OF THEM AVAILABLE FOR MIDEAST SERVICE.

2. AS REPORTED IN REF B, DEFENSE MINISTER FOSTERVOLL ANNOUNCED THEIR AVAILABILITY FOR MIDEAST SERVICE LAST WEEK. IN CONVERSATION WITH A MAAG OFFICER THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 19, FOSTERVOLL INDICATED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT NORWAY HAD NOT YET BEEN APPROACHED, AND AT LUNCH ON OCTOBER 24 FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND CONFIRMED TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE NORWEGIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY IS DEFINITELY MAKING PLANS FOR PROVIDING FORCES IF REQUESTED.

3. ACCORDING TO THIS MORNING'S PRESS, A DEFENSE MINISTRY
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SPOKESMAN STATED LATE LAST NIGHT THAT AN ADVANCE NORWEGIAN

CONTINGENT COULD BE IN PLACE IN THE MIDEAST BETWEEN 24 AND 48 HOURS AFTER A GOVERNMENT DECISION TO SEND THEM WAS TAKEN. IT WOULD TAKE UP TO SIX DAYS, HE SAID, TO GET THE REST OF THE FORCE COLLECTED, EQUIPPED AND TRANSPORTED. THE SPOKESMAN REFERRED TO THE 1286-MAN FIGURE BUT SAID IT WAS NOT CERTAIN THAT ALL OF THEM WOULD BE CALLED IN. HE THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY THAT A FORCE SMALLER THAN AN 800-MAN INFANTRY BATTALLION WOULD BE INVOLVED.

4. WITHOUT APPROACHING NORWEGIANS, WE REGRET WE ARE UNABLE PROVIDE DETAILS ON FORCE COMPOSITION. WE ASSUME THIS INFORMATION MAY BE AVAILABLE FROM THE REPORT ENTITLED "NORDIC STAND-BY FORCES IN UNITED NATIONS SERVICE," REFERRED TO IN REF C. ACCORDING TO NORWEGIAN PRESS ACCOUNTS, THAT REPORT WAS HANDED OVER TO UN DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL ROBERTO GUYER ON OCTOBER 12 BY THE FOUR NORDIC UN AMBASSADORS.

5. THE NORWEGIAN FORCE REPORTEDLY INCLUDES INTEGRAL AIR TRANSPORT CONSISTING OF TWO C-130 HERCULES AIRCRAFT, BUT ADDITIONAL AIRLIFT ASSISTANCE MIGHT BE REQUIRED.
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